

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, April 5, 2016, at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members, Steve Carroll, Frank Esposito, Maureen Kelly, Marilyn Murray and Dot Stillinger. Also in attendance - George Stafford, New Jersey Highlands Coalition and Kathy Abbott, Township Resident. Absent: Matt Palmer, and Don Travisano.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: To undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources and air quality, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT - The meeting schedule for 2016 and January 2017 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and on the Chatham Township website at [www.chathamtownship.org](http://www.chathamtownship.org). The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

#### DATES FOR CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETINGS IN 2016 AND JANUARY 2017

Every first or second Tuesday February through December 2016 and the second Tuesday in January 2017.

Dates are: February 2, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 14, July NO MEETING, August 2, September 6, October 4, November 1, December 6 in 2016 and January 10 in 2017.

#### PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

George Stafford of New Jersey Highlands Coalition spoke regarding the protection of the Highlands. Mr. Stafford is addressing towns that receive their water supply from the Highlands and is asking for their support, by passing a resolution to protect the 2004 Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act. Steve Carroll suggested communicating with the Township Committee as a resolution from them would be more viable. CTEC will discuss further.

Frank Esposito motioned to approve the March 1, 2016 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Maureen Kelly 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor.

#### GREEN TEAM MEETING (8:20-8:30) S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair.

The Commission addressed the issued if Steve was to step down as SJ Team Leader, what resources would the township need to pursue next round certification. The Commission agrees that silver status is difficult to achieve. The Commission does not have the man power to take on additional work. Steve will address the Township Committee at their April 7, 2016 meeting for their input and will present the 2015 Annual Green Team Report.

#### DRINKING WATER QUALITY IN CHATHAM TOWNSHIP

Township resident Peter Gallagher has found that according to the EWG study in 2006 the pollutants in Chatham water are far above the national average (<http://www.ewg.org/tap-water/whatsinyourwater/NJ/NJ-American-Water-Company/0712001/>). Commission reviewed a report received by Mr. Gallagher and concluded that the drinking water seems fine. This item will stay on the agenda as Mr. Gallagher may attend an upcoming meeting and can discuss further.

APPROVE 2015 ANNUAL REPORT; Steve Carroll motioned to approve the 2015 Annual Report and Maureen Kelly 2<sup>nd</sup>, with all in favor. Dot Stillinger will present the annual report to the Township Committee at the April 7, 2016 meeting.

#### GREEN VILLAGE POND CONSERVATION AREA

Work Day is Saturday, April 23. Suitable for Girl and Boy Scouts, youth groups, families, outdoor enthusiasts. Old bottles are frequently excavated on this old homestead. Attend during any part of 9:30am to 12:30pm. A flyer has been posted on CTEC website and on the Township website.

Tasks were assigned. Dot Stillinger thanked her family who spent a tremendous amount of time on maintenance of the property and preparing the site for cleanup.

#### APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- 609 Fairmount Ave., Block 62.12 Lot 1. Application to Planning Board for subdivision of the acre lot. Steep slopes. R-3 (1/2 acre residential) zone. Possibly review plans. No memo from CTEC is required at this time, pending review from Planning Board.

#### REPORTS

- Planning Board

D. Travisano, Planning Board liaison.

- Township Committee and Board of Health

K. Swartz, Township Committee and Board of Health liaison.

- Open Space Committee - Marilyn Murray, Open Space liaison. Everett Property – DPW cut trees, working on proposed path, looking for an Eagle Scout to complete projects. Open Space will make a presentation to Township Committee at April 7, 2016 meeting.

- WEBSITE REVIEW

F. Esposito continues to review the CTEC website with the goal of removing outdated material or update.

- Communications Committee - F. Esposito, Chair.

Review EC website for items to change or eliminate. EC website is in process of being redesigned by a contractor for the Township.

Any EC member wanting to post material on website should forward the items to F. Esposito who will work with Township Web administrator Tom Salvas.

- Recycling Committee - F. Esposito, Chair, and M. Murray

Frank Esposito reported on MUA meeting. The schools will sponsor an electronic waste fair in October.

- Community Education and Outreach Committee. F. Esposito, Chair.

- Conservation Easement Subcommittee - D. Stillinger and M. Murray.

CTEC will pursue a mechanism for conservation easement recording and monitoring starting 2017.

- What is the procedure if a violation of a conservation easement is observed?

- According to remarks made at the October 22 meeting of the Township Committee a memo by Carl Woodward, former Township attorney, states that conservation easements required by the Planning Board but not accepted by the Township can be vacated at will by the Township. The opinion was delivered in connection with litigation concerning the walking easement between Pine Street and Linden Lane. The opinion also applies to an easement required by the Planning Board on a parcel on River Road on steep slopes that was proposed for a cell tower, subsequently built on Esternay Field. That conservation easement extends across the rear steep portions of a four lot subdivision proposed by Nicholas Parisi and approved by the Planning Board in 1995. Suggest that CTEC urge the Township Committee to accept the 4 conservation easements.

•Pilgrim Pipe Line – Kathy Abbott spoke regarding the pipeline, stating that meetings are held by a citizens group against the pipeline. The pipeline is proposing to use existing utility and highway right of ways for exporting oil through pipelines from New York through New Jersey that would impact communities. CTEC will take appropriate action by submitting a memo to the Township Committee to support stopping the pipeline. Modify to the annual report will reflect this update.

• Invasive Species Subcommittee - M. Palmer, Chair

- Emerald ash borer comes to New Jersey

(<http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/emeraldashborer.html>). Emerald Ash Borer was discovered in New Jersey in May 2014 in Somerset County. Infestations throughout the U.S. and Canada have killed tens of millions of ash trees since 2002.

## NOTES AND DISCUSSION

• New and very good NJDEP website for maps, parcels and environmental information at NJ-GeoWeb, <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/geoweb splash.htm>. Use Internet Explorer.

• Very good Morris County mapping utility at <http://morrisgisapps.co.morris.nj.us/apps/parcelsearcher.html>, hit Map or Advanced Data Search. Gives information about each parcel and has aerials layer.

• Possible projects for grants. Trails on the Green Village Pond Conservation Area? Nash Field to Green Village Road?

## RECENT LETTERS SENT

• March 2016. Letter to PSE&G urging great care in removing vegetation in powerline rights-of-way.

• February 2016. Memo to Board of Adjustment regarding a proposed steep slope disturbance.

• January 2016. Two letters to NJDEP concerning applications for LOI.

• December 2015. Comment letter to NJDEP regarding proposed new rules for relaxing sewers and hence development in environmentally sensitive areas.

• November 2015. Two letters to NJDEP concerning applications for LOI, one letter to NJDEP concerning repair of septic system. Letter to Planning Board regarding an application for steep slopes variances. Letter to legislators concerning SCR180 regarding allowing pipelines in wetland buffers.

## MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Long Hill Environmental Commission.

- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN 9:35

Carolyn Scannelli